OPHRYS APIFERA.

Character Genericus.

Nectarium ſubtus ſubcarinatum.

Lin. Syſt. Nat. tom. 2. p. 592.
Gynandria Diandria.

Character Specificus, &c.

OPHRYS bulbis ſubrotundis, ſcapo ſolioſo, nectarii labio ſubquinquelobo.

Lin. Spec. Plantar. p. 1343.

OPHRYS radicibus ſubrotundis, labello holoſericeo, emarginato et appendiculato.

Haller. Hiſt. vol. 2. 1266. t. 24.

Planta hæc, cui nomen Ophrys Apifera, rei botanicæ ſtudioſis probe cognita eſt: Junio et Julio floret. Super colles, et prope ſylvas, ſolo præcipue cretaceo naſcitur; venuſtatem tamen habet eximiam et peculiarem in umbroſo ſylvarum feceſſa reperta. Sic ſita injuriam omnem quæ a ſole nimium torrido foliis accidere ſolet, evitat. Flores formoſæ hujus plantæ adeo ſunt apibus ſimiles, parvo intervallo conſpecti, ut qui eam intuentur, in eademſententia non poſſint non omnes convenire.

Notum epigramma, parce detortum, Ophri Apiferæ non male convenit.

Dum dubitat vel apem Natura an fingeret herbam,
Conjunxit formas ingenioſa duas.

THE
BEE OPHRYS.

Generic Character.

The *Nectary* of a ſomewhat keel-ſhaped appearance on its lower ſurface.

Lin. Syſt. Nat.

Specific Character, &c.

OPHRYS with roundiſh bulbs, leafy ſtem, lip of the nectary notched into five lobes.

Lin.

OPHRYS with 5-petaled flowers, of which the 3 exterior petals are large, acuminate, and of a very pale purple; the 2 interior ones ſmall, very narrow, and greeniſh; the nectarium large, convex, brown, of a velvety ſurface, and marked with yellow ſpots and ſtreaks.

ORCHIS, ſ. Teſticulus vulpinus 2 ſphegodes.

Gerard emac. p. 212.

ORCHIS ſphegodes, ſeu fucum referens.

Park. 1350.

The plant figured is well known to the admirers of botany by the title of the Bee-Orchis. It flowers in June and July. It is found principally on hilly grounds, and

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and near woods, eſpecially on a chalky ſoil; but it is never ſeen in ſuch complete perfection as when it happens to grow in the ſhade of a wood, as in this ſituation it eſcapes all thoſe injuries which the leaves are ſo apt to ſuffer, when growing in a too ſunny expoſure.

So ſtriking is the general reſemblance which the flowers, when viewed at a little diſtance, bear to an Inſect, as to have uniformly impreſſed all obſervers with the ſame idea; and may almoſt juſtify the application of the epigrammatic deſcription.

Nature in doubt a beauteous Flow'r
Or Inſect to diſcloſe,
At length beneath her forming pow'r
They both in union roſe.